

OIL TANK MAKES SPECTACULAR FIRE

Blaze in Grass Spreads to Storage Place of National Company.

HAZARDOUS FIGHT FOR CHIEF STOW AND MEN

Flaming Oil Spouting From Broken Valve Cut Off by Pressure of Two Streams From Engine—Gasoline Barrels Explode With Loud Report. Damage Several Thousand.

Approximately 4,000 gallons of refined coal oil was destroyed and the immense 20,000-gallon combination oil tank of the National Oil Company, located about 150 feet east of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway yard between Thirty-fifth street and Thirty-sixth street, was badly damaged about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon in one of the most spectacular fires seen here in many years. Two barrels of gasoline which were on the ground near the tank, caught fire and exploded within a few seconds of each other. The reports could be heard for a mile and the pieces of shattered staves and metal bands were hurled high in the air.

Subsequently the two iron traps covering the man holes on top of the tank were blown into the air and the valve through which oil was drawn from the tank was blown out with great force and was instantly followed by a stream of oil which ignited as fast as it poured through the three-inch hole made in the south end of the tank by the blowing out of the valve. That no one was injured in the explosions or the fire is rather remarkable as hundreds of people gathered on the scene within a few minutes after the fire started.

Blaze Starts in Grass. While the origin of the fire has not been ascertained, it is known that the blaze began in the grass on the vacant field in which the tank stands on a wooden trestle ten feet high and the supposition is that boys set fire to the grass as the fire started in the field on the east side of the tank and as the wind was blowing strongly from the northwest sparks from passing locomotives could not have fallen where the blaze originated.

Fanned by the high wind, the flames quickly spread to the fence around the oil tank and to a small wooden store shed within the enclosure. An alarm was not turned in to the department until the flames had begun to spread to the trestle under the tank. Then some person, whose name could not be learned, sent in two alarms in quick succession from the box at Warwick avenue and Thirty-fourth street. Within a minute, the Central and North End fire companies were racing to the scene. When they arrived the valve at the south end of the tank had been blown out and the oil pouring through the hole was burning fiercely, being fanned by the high wind and driven fifty feet from the tank before breaking into dense volumes of black smoke.

Fine Exhibition of Fire Fighting. Besides seeing a spectacular and beautiful fire, the hundreds who crowded the Thirty-fourth street bridge and the fields nearby witnessed a remarkable exhibition of fire fighting by Fire Chief W. K. Stow and his men. It is impossible to put out burning oil with water and, knowing the fact, Chief Stow found himself face to face with a serious problem. Inspired by a desire to save the big tank and keep down the fire loss in the city for the present year, Chief Stow had four lines of hose run from the fire engines to the fire—two from each engine—and the firemen began

playing the streams into the seething masses of flames.

One stream was played on the trestle to keep it from burning and the tank from falling and another stream was played on the tank to keep it as cool as possible. The other two streams were played directly across the end of the tank at the point where the stream of oil was pouring out to feed the raging fire. Chief Stow figured that if he could keep the tank cool and cut off the stream of oil by the two powerful streams of water, he could extinguish the blaze and he and his men won after a stirring battle of half an hour.

Immense Stream of Fire. When the crowds began arriving on the scene and before the firemen could get their long lines of hose laid, a stream of flames fifty feet long was shooting out from the south end of the tank. The circle of flame was just the size of the end of the tank and at first the crowd thought that the end of the tank had blown out and the fire was eating inside of the immense steel tube. The stream of fire revolved around like smoke coming from the funnel of a ship when under forced draft and it shot out in a straight line for fifty feet with little streams of fire darting out here and there and breaking into smoke. Great volumes of smoke poured from the flames and were swept southward over the central part of the city.

The grass, fence and oil on the ground all around the tank were burning fiercely adding to the heat of the flames from the end of the tank. It was into this inferno that the firemen gradually advanced with their powerful streams of water. Slowly, but surely the firemen went forward until they were within the enclosure around the tank. The full force of two streams was directed across the face of the tank at the hole through which the oil was poured. The stream of oil was cut off once and the fire ceased, but the oil burst out again and the fire started anew. Thrice this occurred before the heat around the tank had been reduced to a minimum and the flames on the ground and around the trestle work had been extinguished. Then the stream of oil was cut off again and the fire was out.

Expected Tank to Explode. Hundreds of those who gathered on the scene expected that the big tank would explode and many of those standing on the Thirty-fourth street bridge expressed fear for the safety of the crowds gathered in the field near the tank. An explosion of the tank would have been almost impossible as the man holes in the top are sufficiently large to allow all of the gases generated by the burning of the oil to escape.

When the firemen first began fighting the blaze with water, hundreds of the spectators laughed at their efforts, but after the ladders had won against the flames, the people who had watched the fight were outspoken in their praise of the firemen, many declaring that it was the most remarkable exhibition of fire fighting they had ever seen.

Damage Estimated at \$2,500. At this time it is almost impossible to estimate the exact damage entailed by the blaze, but G. B. Houston, local agent for the National Oil Company, says that he places the loss at about \$2,500. He does not know whether his company carried any insurance on the tank and its contents. It is estimated that there were about 4,000 gallons of oil in the tank when the blaze began and probably three-fourths of that amount was consumed by the flames. Considerable more ran out on the ground before the firemen could check the hole in the tank with bagging and prevent the escape of oil.

Tank is Badly Damaged. Agent Houston says that the tank is very badly damaged, being cracked in two places. All of the valves and inner piping are damaged and the pump used to pump the oil from the cars into the tank is practically ruined. All of the tools in the store shed also are ruined and a large quantity of feed kept in the shed for the team worked here by the company also was destroyed.

A survey of the tank will be made tomorrow by representatives of the oil company and they will estimate the exact amount of the damage.

YOUNG WOMAN SUCCEUMS TO SPINAL MENINGITIS

Miss Mattie May Robinson Dies After Illness of Only Five Days.

Miss Mattie May Robinson, aged 25 years, who was stricken with spinal meningitis last Tuesday, died at 8:35 o'clock last night at the home of her brother, G. E. Robinson, 2512 Orcutt avenue. The funeral will take place at the residence tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The services will be conducted by Rev. J. T. Riddick, pastor of the Second Baptist church, assisted by Rev. Lloyd T. Wilson, D. D., pastor of the Newport News Baptist church, and interment will be made in Greenlawn.

Miss Robinson had lived here for a number of years and was popular with a host of friends, to whom the news of her death came as a great shock. She had been employed at Woolworth's five and ten cent store ever since the store was opened here.

If you don't tell a vain man he isn't, he'll tell you, so you might as well.

You can judge a woman by the things she likes best.

Sometimes nervous women's complaints are imaginary; again they are a form of disease. In any event, Holter's Rocky Mountain Tea makes women well. A tonic unequalled for the good it does.—J. C. GORSUCH & CO.

Just try G. R. S. Special.

COOK WITH GAS

WILL MAKE SURVEY OF SWAMP LANDS

Agent of Federal Drainage Bureau Interested in Local Reclamation Project.

REPORT TO BE MADE AT AGRICULTURE SESSION

T. C. Brodie and Dr. Knapp, of Agricultural Department, Accept Invitation To Conduct Demonstrations For Benefit of Farmer Guests of Chamber of Commerce.

At the request of the Chamber of Commerce, the bureau of drainage of the United States department of agriculture will send a representative to this city early next month to study the problem of draining and reclaiming the swamp land in Warwick and Elizabeth City counties a few miles north of this city. After spending ten days going over the land and compiling data as to the best method of drainage, the agent of the bureau will give the results of his work in a speech at the second annual agricultural session of the chamber at the Olympic theater on December 17.

The question of the reclamation of the swamp land was brought up before the chamber about a year ago and an engineer made a survey of the swamp and gave some figures as to the probable cost of the work. The method of drainage suggested at that time was to dig a ditch from the swamp under the Chesapeake & Ohio railway to James river. Since then, however, a proposition to drain the land by connecting it with Salter's creek by means of a canal has been brought up.

Report On Two Plans. While he is here, the representative of the department of agriculture will study both plans and report as to which is the better and the cost of each. His report is expected to prove of peculiar interest to scores of the farmers who will attend the agricultural session as well as to the business men of the city and the members of the chamber.

It is proposed to drain the swamp land and convert it into farms so that this city will have a rich back country from which to draw. The land in the swamp probably is the richest for farming purposes in this section of Virginia and it is claimed will be of great value. Money with which to do the proposed work will be raised in this city and the two counties and State aid will be invoked. No aid can be secured from the national government.

Send Two Other Representatives. Besides agreeing to send a representative here to investigate the drainage of the swamp land, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Hayes has promised to send two other representatives of his department here to deliver addresses before the agricultural session of the chamber. T. C. Brodie, one of the leading demonstration experts of the department, who spoke here last year, will be here and will give some interesting demonstrations to the farmers. The other agent will be from the office of Dr. Knapp, who is in charge of the general demonstration work of the department, and he also will give an interesting demonstration to the farmers.

Dr. J. G. Fernyhough, the State veterinarian, has accepted an invitation to address the agricultural session and will make an address on "Pure Bred Cattle and Hogs." Prof. T. C. Johnson, chief of the truck experiment station in Norfolk county, also has consented to speak at the session and will discuss "Winter Trucking."

The committee on arrangements also has received a letter from C. K. Graham, agricultural director of the Hampton Normal & Agricultural Institute, stating that he will address the session, speaking on "Poultry Raising."

DANGER IN DELAY.

Kidney Diseases Are Too Dangerous for Newport News People to Neglect.

The great danger of kidney troubles is that they get a firm hold before the sufferer recognizes them. Health is gradually undermined. Backache, headache, nervousness, lameness, soreness, lumbago, urinary troubles, dropsy, diabetes and Bright's disease follow in merciless succession. Don't neglect your kidneys. Cure the kidneys with the certain and safe remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills, which has cured people right here in Newport News.

Mrs. C. H. Wynn, 559 Thirtieth street, Newport News, Va., says: "I willingly give Doan's Kidney Pills my endorsement. I had a great deal of trouble from my kidneys and my health was all run down. I felt nervous and weak, did not rest comfortably and was troubled by a constant backache. The kidney secretions were also badly disordered. Being advised to use Doan's Kidney Pills, I procured a box at Klor's Drug Store. They gave me entire relief from the backache and also removed the other symptoms of my complaint. I have been in good health ever since."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Just try G. R. S. Special.

ing." Several other prominent experts on farming also are expected to deliver addresses.

The chamber has gotten out large yellow posters advertising the agricultural session and they are to be distributed and posted in the nearby counties.

SOCIAL-PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. George Daniel Turner, who were married in Prince George county on November 16, have returned from their wedding trip and are now at home to their friends in East End.

Miss Lizzie Hogg, of Gloucester county, who was called to this city on account of the illness of her brother, Mr. Dossie Hogg, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. L. M. Bray, on Fiftieth street.

Miss Sallie Vane, who has been visiting her parents in East End, will return to Franklin, Va., this afternoon.

Mrs. W. A. Sprull has been called to Atlanta, Ga., on account of the serious illness of her brother.

Miss Pearson Wright, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wright, on Forty-eighth street, is ill with typhoid fever.

Mr. Guy Via, of Pennsylvania, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Via on Twenty-seventh street.

Mr. Dossie Hogg, brother of Mrs. L. M. Bray, who was operated on last Saturday for appendicitis at the Elizabeth Buxton hospital, is somewhat improved.

Mrs. R. W. Newsome is visiting friends in Norfolk.

Mr. Walter C. Hopkins, who has been visiting his parents on Oak avenue, has returned to the Agricultural & Mechanical College, Raleigh, N. C.

Mr. B. Franklin Johnson, Jr., who has been visiting his aunt, Mrs. A. M. Johnson, 745 Twenty-seventh street, will return to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute today.

Mrs. George Gallatz has returned to her home in Norfolk after a visit to her sister, Mrs. Edward Watt, in this city.

Dr. R. Lee Robinson, who recently was called to Baltimore by the sudden illness of his father, has returned to this city.

Mrs. Thomas C. Darst, on Thirty-fourth street, has as her guest her aunt, Miss Caroline Smoot, of Alexandria.

Miss Grizel Mullen, of Petersburg, is visiting Mrs. Lane Lacy, on the Boulevard.

Mr. Frank Curtis, who has been visiting his father, Mr. J. M. Curtis, on Thirty-fourth street, has returned to the University of Virginia.

Mr. C. Aylett Ashby, who has been spending the holidays with his family on Thirty-third street, will return to the Virginia Episcopal Seminary, Alexandria, tomorrow.

Mr. Charles Carter, of the Virginia Military Institute, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Carter, on West Avenue.

Mr. Paul Wilson, who has been spending the holidays with his mother, Mrs. M. Wilson, in East End, will return to William & Mary College tomorrow.

Mrs. Harry Livezey, who has been visiting at Grove, Ga., has returned to this city. While away she attended the Thanksgiving dance at William & Mary College Friday night.

Miss Lucile Ramsay has returned to her home in Mathews county after spending the holidays with friends in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lipman, on Twenty-fifth street, have as their guest Mr. Augustus Levin, of Philadelphia.

Miss Edith Haynes informally entertained Thursday night at her home on Twenty-seventh street.

Mrs. W. L. Smith is quite sick at "The Gloucester."

Gives Birthday Party.

Master Winborne Terry Jenkins, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jenkins, entertained at a birthday party Friday afternoon at his home on Thirty-fourth street. Those attending were: Little Misses Mabel, Frances and Margaret Barham, Ruth and Grace Manville, Louise and Elizabeth Moore, May Belle Belch, Dorothy Gary, Elizabeth Buxton, Mary Moss, Bessie Sims, Agnes and Julia Clarke, and Messrs. James Moore, Barham Gary, Edward Jeffery, John and Joseph Buxton, Lorenzo Jenkins, James Moss, Baxter Barham, Maynard Caffee, Thomas and Lee Newman, Lawrence and Lewis Davis, Manly Caldwell, Clarence Ashby, Frank and Frederick Barrett, Julius Jenkins, Winborne Terry Jenkins.

The only way a man can cut another out with a girl is for her to do it.

Where there's a will there's a way for the heirs to spend what it leaves.

Will Promote Beauty.

Women desiring beauty get wonderful help from Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It banishes pimples, skin eruptions, sores and boils. It makes the skin soft and velvety. It glorifies the face. Cures sore eyes, cold sores, cracked lips, chapped hands. Best for burns, scalds, fever sores, cuts, bruises and piles. 25c at All Druggists.

Just try G. R. S. Special.

Watt, Doxey & Watt

The Busy Store

Watt, Doxey & Watt

TOYLAND OPENS TOMORROW

Bright, happy Toyland, with its pretty dolls and doll carriages; an assortment of toys that is pleasing in variety and quality and reasonable in price. See the new airships, rolly polly toys, mechanical toys of all kinds, trains and tracks, grocery stores stocked with groceries, garages, pianos, sewing machines, rifles, iron toys, Indian suits and dozens of others too numerous to mention

Japanese China

Wide range of hand decorated Japanese China Plates, Cups and Saucers, Mayonnaise Sets, Nut Sets, Chocolate Sets, Hot Cake Dishes and many other suitable pieces for gift-giving at very small prices.

Jewel Cases

A wide assortment of Jewel Cases—Silk lined, smallest size as low as 25c. The larger sizes from

50c and up

Brush and Comb Sets

Very suitable for Christmas presents—Silver plated and hand decorated sets.

\$1 50, \$2. \$2 50 to \$6 50

Brass Ware

Brass Goods will figure strong in this season's gifts—Brass Jars, Candelers, Fern Dishes, Ash Trays, Candle Sticks, Paper Weights, etc.

50c to \$4.95

Tabourettes

Made of soft wood and stamped, ready for the pyrography needle; heavy and solid.

\$1 00

Pyrography Sets

Complete Set contains bulb and rubber attachment, benzine bottle, alcohol bottle with stopper, needle holder and needle point.

\$1.25 to \$2 00

Ladies' Handkerchiefs

Large assortment of beautiful Embroidered Handkerchiefs, Madras Lace Handkerchiefs, Initial Handkerchiefs, Embroidered corner effects and plain Hemstitched Handkerchiefs.

10c, 12c, 25c to \$1 00

Ladies' Kid Gloves

The reliable "Fowles" make—black, white, tan, brown, navy and green.

\$1 00 a pair

Pretty Neckwear

The newest effects in Persian Jackets and Dutch Collars. Put up one in a neat white box.

25c and 50c

Persian Ruffling

The latest creation in ruffling for Coat or Waist—red and navy Persian combination.

25c the yard

Popular Novels

Books always make acceptable gifts. See the many titles on our shelves at

48c

Alger Books for Boys

The boys' favorite is the Alger Series, new titles and some not so new that possibly your boy has not read.

20c

Matheson's Blended Tea

We have been unable to supply our customers with this famous tea for the past few weeks. The Steamer "West Point" which was lost at sea in October carried a large consignment of tea for us and of course it all went to the bottom of the Atlantic, and no doubt the fishes had a great tea party. We have just received another shipment, put up in pound and half pound packages.

50c a pound

Broncho Buster Hose

For boys and girls—medium rib; extra strong; nothing better at the price.

2 pair for 25c

Pony Hose

Made by the famous Wayne Knitting Mills—heavy rib for boys; fine rib for girls.

25c a pair

Fay Stockings

The Stocking that buttons to the waist, keeps your child warmer than any other stocking—black or white.

25c and 35c a pair

Watt, Doxey & Watt

2909-11 Washington Avenue

Newport News, Virginia

OH YOU PRESTO

The new popular Overcoat for men and boys, with double collar

Men's a ung men's, \$16 to \$20

Boys' and children's, \$5 to \$10

Whether you want the Presto or a plain black or grey dress coat you'll find it here at the Right Price

UNDERWEAR

For men and boys fleece lined, cotton ribbed, silk and wool or all wool

50c to \$2.00 Garment

SWEATERS

For men, ladies, boys and children. All colors and combinations

50c to \$5.00

Wertheimer & Co.

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NORFOLK'S POPULAR THEATER

ALL THIS WEEK

MATINEES

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

HENRY B. HARRIS

Presents THE EVERLASTING SUCCESS

"THE LION AND THE MOUSE"

The Talk of All America

A Carefully Selected Cast and a Complete Production

Chickens Take to Drink.

Wendover Young, a native of Cedar Grove, N. J., declares he has half a dozen young chickens, all about a month old, all of whom have a great

appetite for whisky and also Jamaica ginger. On election day it snowed in Cedar Grove. Mr. Young found his chickens almost frozen. He brought them into the kitchen, placed them near the fire, and also gave them

some whisky and ginger. It snowed again in Cedar Grove yesterday. When Mr. Young opened the door he found his six chickens all lined up like soldiers waiting for more "medicine."—New York American.

\$5.00 BRASS UMBRELLA STAND

\$3.25

DURING the next Six Days we will sell as a special bargain a \$5.00 Brass Umbrella Stand at above price. The Stand will not only prove useful, but will be an ornament to any hall

Flory-Royall Co., Inc. 2711 Washington Ave.